

B4L Bent-Prowers Cattle & Horse Growers Assoc.

Representing Baca, Bent, Kiowa, Otero & Prowers counties ♦ Organized in 1870

The 142nd annual Bent-Prowers Cattle & Horse Growers Association meeting was called to order by Pres. Timy Trosper at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 2, 2011 at Thyme Square in downtown La Junta, Colo. There were about 50 adults in attendance.

The welcome was given by Pres. Trosper, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Southeastern Colorado Junior Cattlemen members. A CattleWomen's report was given by Sue Cummings, CCW president; then the youth and CattleWomen then split into their separate association meetings.

Other industry reports were given by Fred Lombardi, Colo. Beef Council director; Rick Wahlert, Colo. Brand Board commissioner; Terry Fankhauser, Colo. Cattlemen Assoc. exec. vice president; Sen. Kevin Grantham, Dist. 2 state senator; Travis Black, Colo. Department of Wildlife area wildlife manager; and Shelly Simmons, Colo. State Forest Service assistant district forester.

Following a break, which included displays by FFA members, Pat Karney gave a presentation on his Nature Conservatory trip to Argentina.

Steve McEndree moved and Kevin Hefley seconded to dispense with the reading of the 2010 annual meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion passed by voice vote.

Joe Kasza presented the audit committee's report and handouts. Milton Rink moved and Dave Mendenhall seconded to approve the audit and the proposed budget. Motion passed on a voice vote. Pat Karney presented the Endowment Trust's statement of condition and financial statement. Steve McEndree moved and Leonard Pruett seconded to approve the Endowment Trust report. Motion passed by voice vote.

In new business, Second Vice President Hefley presented the resolutions committee's resolutions:

Proposed Resolution #1 to honor deceased members:

WHEREAS, since the last annual meeting many of our beloved and valued members passed to their reward. We, who remain, have enjoyed and benefitted from their association and we are saddened by their absence. We share the sorrow of their families and loved ones and to their memory, we pledge to support the principles which these great men and women, who have gone before us, have firmly instilled in our association.

THEREFORE be it resolved, the members of Bent-Prowers Cattle & Horse Growers Association, now stand to take a moment to memorialize our deceased members.

Proposed Resolution #2 concerning Pinon Canyon:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army has not completely terminated Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site expansion efforts; and

WHEREAS, non-abandonment leads to instability for area businesses and ranches in the area;

THEREFORE be it resolved, Bent-Prowers Cattle & Horse Grower's Assoc. continue opposition to Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site expansion.

Proposed Resolution #3 concerning sweet clover listing:

WHEREAS, Colorado Noxious Weed Committee is considering listing sweet clover as mildly invasive; and

WHEREAS, sweet clover is an excellent feed for livestock and good habitat for wildlife;

THEREFORE be it resolved, Bent-Prowers Cattle & Horse Grower's Assoc. oppose such listings.

Proposed Resolution #4 concerning conservation easements in the lower Arkansas Valley:

WHEREAS, private landowners, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America have all committed to preserving open space, wildlife, and our natural landscape; and

WHEREAS, private landowners were offered tax savings in lieu of permanent property restrictions of land use and future profits; and

WHEREAS, landowners committed a considerable amount of time and endured many expenses associated with preparing and submitting legal and acceptable easements on their property; and

WHEREAS, landowners contracted with Colorado licensed and experienced professionals in every stage

of the extensive easement process; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is the result of the irreconcilable controversy concerning the rejection by the Department of Revenue of approximately 600 conservation easements in the lower Arkansas Valley area;

THEREFORE be it resolved, that Bent-Powers Cattle & Horse Growers Assoc. support legislation introduced by Rep. Wes McKinley, HB 11-1208, to resolve the issue of the rejection of conservation easement tax credits by the Colorado Department of Revenue.

Proposed Resolution #5 concerning CRP species list:

Information from Colorado Association of Conservation Districts states: "The function of the Conservation District is to make available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources."

WHEREAS, Southeastern Colorado conservation district see the need for increasing emphasis on wildlife habitat considerations, including lesser prairie chicken and pollinator habitat, on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in the region; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this concern, these districts assumed a leadership role in obtaining wildlife priority area status for Southeast Colorado in preparation for the 39th CRP sign-up; and

WHEREAS, locally adapted species of grasses and forbs or shrubs, planted in a way that is most likely to be successful has been identified as a prerequisite for successful improvement of wildlife and pollinator habitat; and

WHEREAS, producers in the region have cultural knowledge dating back to the establishment of the Soil Erosion Service regarding establishment, adaption, and availability of species found on local rangelands and for seeding into formerly cultivated areas; and

WHEREAS, Baca County Conservation District developed a list of adapted native forbs and shrubs and naturalized ecologically benign introduced forbs and legumes capable of enhancing wildlife and pollinator habitat prior to the 39th CRP sign-up; and

WHEREAS, adoption of these practices by landowners and managers is a prerequisite of getting significant amounts of desirable wildlife habitat in the region; and

WHEREAS, in order to accomplishment wide adoption by cooperators in the CRP of species that provide improved wildlife and pollinator habitat, these species need to be competitive to other alternatives for cost, ease of establishment, likelihood of successful establishment, and long-term survival; and

WHEREAS, technical guidance has been late in arriving, contains several species recommended for this area that are either misclassified as a bloom period or adaptability, contains a number of confusing or contradictory recommendations, and contains hard rules that were meant as suggestions from the national guidance documents; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a great deal of skepticism and confusion among producers regarding species recommendations, costs, and likelihood of establishment which is seriously limiting the acceptance of these practices in the area; and

WHEREAS, other species that have been proven effective, affordable, well adapted, and non-invasive have been removed from the list of species allowed;

IT IS FURTHER be it resolved that the undersigned conservation districts respectfully request the use of the species list and procedures developed locally in Baca County and authorized by the Colorado State NRCS office for pollinator and CP4D enhancements for CRP sign-up #39 be reauthorized in our district for CRP sign-up #41, and with revisions we may deem necessary, in light of new information, for future sign-ups;

BE IT FURTHER resolved that if the State NRCS Office will not change the seed mixtures to match those of sign-up #39, the Baca Conservation District will seek equitable relief and/or request that misinformation be granted to all producers who utilize the mixture proposed in sign-up #41 that fails to establish a suitable stand in sign-up #41 based on the use of non-adaptable species.

Dave Mendenhall asked that resolution #5 be set aside for further discussion. There was no opposition.

Hans Hasser moved and Steve McEndree seconded to approve resolutions #1-4. Bill Gray amended the motion to approve amendments #1-3 but to set aside resolution #4 for further discussion. Bill Hancock seconded. In a split decision, the amendment passed by raising voting cards. The amended motion of approving resolutions #1-3, then passed by voice vote.

Discussion on resolution #4 focused on blanket amnesty and on support of the resolution but separate from the house bill. Hans Hasser moved and Bill Hancock seconded to amend the resolution by replacing the final paragraph on resolution #4 with:

THEREFORE be it resolved that Bent-Prowers Cattle & Horse Grower's Assoc. support the resolving of the issue of the rejection of conservation easement tax credits by the Colorado Department of Revenue.

The amendment and the amended motion both passed by voice vote.

Resolution #5 returned to the floor. Steve McEndree moved and Amanda McEndree seconded to amend resolution #5 by adding a final paragraph that reads:

BE IT FURTHER resolved that Bent-Prowers Cattle & Horse Grower's Assoc. support this resolution, with a copy of support being sent to the state technical committee and appropriate legislative offices.

The amendment and the amended motion both passed by voice vote.

A drawing was held for a new Priefert squeeze chute, which was a CCA membership contest prize won by the association. Names of all current paid members in attendance were in the drawing, with Carol McEndree winning the chute.

The nominating committee report was given by Immediate Past Pres. Ron O'Neal, with the slate of officers: Lori Chase, president; Kevin Hefley, 1st vice president; Reggy Lusk, 2nd vice president; and Susan Russell, secretary/treasurer. Hans Hasser moved and Leonard Pruett seconded to close nominations and elect the officers by acclamation. Motion passed by voice vote.

O'Neal then presented the director slates. For Baca County directors, Amanda McEndree, Steve McEndree and Hans Hasser were nominated for 3 of the 4 open seats. Leonard Pruett moved and Hans Hasser seconded to close nominations and accept the Baca County director slate by acclamation. Motion passed by voice vote.

For Bent County directors, Bill Hancock, Pat Karney and Joe Kasza were nominated for 3 of the 4 open seats. Hans Hasser moved and Pat Ptolemy seconded to close nominations and accept the Bent County director slate by acclamation. Motion passed by voice vote.

For Kiowa County directors, Bruce Fickenscher, Tyler Karney, Louis James and Rick Wollert were nominated. Hans Hasser moved and Pat Karney seconded to close nominations and accept the Kiowa County director slate by acclamation. Motion passed by voice vote.

For Otero County directors, Bill Gray, Leon Leonard, Dave Mendenhall and Pat Ptolemy were nominated. Hans Hasser moved and Bill Hancock seconded to close nominations and accept the Otero County director slate by acclamation. Motion passed by voice vote.

For Prowers County directors, Cade Hasser, Milton Rink, Leonard Pruett and Amber Freouf were nominated. Hans Hasser moved and Pat Karney seconded to close nominations and accept the Prowers County director slate by acclamation. Motion passed on a voice vote.

As per bylaws, O'Neal reported that Timy Trosper will join himself and JoAnn McEndree as three past presidents rounding out the board.

Sponsors for the afternoon meeting and subsequent evening banquet were recognized.

There was no further business. Steve McEndree moved and Cade Hasser seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote. Pres. Trosper adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Russell, secretary